

Be chatterboxes!

Children love to talk and it's so good for them too! In fact, talking **with** your child is one of the most powerful activities you can do. Take turns to speak and listen to each other. Use a wide range of vocabulary and try to use the new words you have discovered when reading together. Talk about everything: how your food tastes, experiences you can remember, what you can see in the world around you. All of this talk helps children to explore and understand language and can have a really positive impact on their writing.

Be storytellers!

Watch this short video from Oxford Owl to learn about how to develop storytelling skills with your child.

<https://youtu.be/F8k93yIkBPA>



Handwriting

In Nursery, your child will begin to use some of their letter knowledge in their early writing.

They might write a pretend shopping list that starts at the top of the page, or they may draw a picture for Mum and write 'M' at the top for Mum.

How can I motivate my child to write?

- Young children need lots of motivation to write and they need to be provided with a wide range of ways in which to do it.
- Give your child experience with writing in different places: for example, on a clipboard, outside with chalk, in notebooks to take shopping.
- Very young children enjoy having a range of different pencils, crayons, chalks and pens to choose from.
- Apps on tablets can be helpful for children to begin to make marks and draw pictures and to use these to tell their own stories.
- Children can really enjoy making their own home-made books using different coloured paper.
- After your child has drawn a picture encourage them to write their name on it so that they know it is there's.
- Try creating a story box of items from around your home that interest your child. This can give them motivation to start writing as they are items they are interested in.

Talking for Writing

Encourage your child to talk about, or say out loud, what they are going to write. This helps them to prepare for writing.

What are you going to write about?

Can you tell me how you are going to write that letter?

Can you read aloud what you have written?

Writing checklist:

Can your child use magnetic letters to spell a word?

Does your child know the language of direction: up, down, round and back?

Can your child write some letters accurately?

Can your child use some of their letter knowledge in their early writing?

Can your child write some or all of their name?

Other ways you can make a big difference

Developing gross motor skills: including large muscle co-ordination.

Visit your local playground. Playgrounds are all different and require different skills, so visit several in your area. While you are there, you can practice different skills such as climbing, balancing or teach your child how to swing by themselves. Learning to ride a bike without stabilisers is fabulous for gross motor skills.

Play ball. Using both small and large balls, you and your child can focus on developing and improving throwing, catching and kicking skills.

Developing fine motor skills: hands and fingers.

Playdough. Encourage your child to squeeze, stretch, pinch and roll “snakes” or “worms” with the play clay. Challenge your child to add small details.

Cutting. Encourage your child to cut out shapes from paper carefully.

<https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/kids/resources/ot-activityinformation-sheets/scissor-skills/>

Other ways to support your child’s fine motor development can include: learning to sew, treading activities, eating with cutlery, using small brushes for painting and pencils for drawing.

Good gross and fine motor skills help your child to write!

